

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a golf ball with ~~an indication that its physical properties have been degraded~~ a visual indication that a property has been altered due to the presence of water in the golf ball, comprising ~~the steps of:~~

~~providing a surface of a golf ball that indicates that the ball has been subjected to water for a time that affects the physical properties of the golf ball;~~
~~and~~
~~covering the surface with~~ applying a water-activated ~~masking layer~~ mask that is altered to permit viewing of ~~the~~ a covered indicator surface upon being subjected to water, ~~thus to unmask the covered surface for indicating that the ball has been subjected to such an amount of water penetrating the ball that its physical properties have been affected thereby.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~masking layer~~ mask alteration includes changing the refractive index of the ~~masking layer~~ mask.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~masking layer~~ mask alteration includes at least partial degradation of the ~~masking layer~~ mask.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the partial degradation includes at least a partial sloughing off of the ~~masking layer~~ mask.
5. (Original) The method of Claim 3, wherein the partial degradation includes microbial degradation.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the covered ~~surface~~ indicator of the golf ball has a predetermined color, ~~the exposing of which by the unmasking being the indication of degraded physical properties of the golf ball.~~
7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the covered ~~surface carries indicator~~ includes indicia, ~~the unmasking of which being the indication of degraded physical properties of the golf ball.~~
8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the indicia is a printed indicia ~~on the covered surface.~~
9. (Withdrawn – Currently Amended) The method of Claim 7, wherein the indicia is an embedded indicia ~~in the covered surface.~~
10. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~masking layer~~ mask is at least partially dissolved by water.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~masking layer~~ mask is at least partially removed in the presence of water.
12. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~masking layer~~ mask functions, prior to water activation, as an opacification mask layer ~~in which the masking layer has a structure which makes the masking layer opaque~~.
13. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein the ~~masking layer~~ mask is made at least partially transparent upon water activation, ~~thus to expose the covered surface~~.
14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~masking layer~~ mask includes a water-activated binder.
15. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the binder includes insoluble pigment particles.
16. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the binder include bubbles.
17. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the binder includes voids.
18. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the binder includes oils.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~covering layer~~ mask includes light-blocking media and wherein the unmasking includes agglomeration of the light-blocking media, thus to at least partially expose the covered ~~surface~~ indicator.
20. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the ~~covering layer~~ mask includes light-blocking media.
21. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the light-blocking media includes pigment particles.
22. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the light-blocking media includes a water-activated binder with bubbles therein.
23. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the light-blocking media includes a water-activated binder with voids therein.
24. (Original) The method of Claim 20, wherein the light-blocking media includes a water-activated binder and droplets of oil therein.
25. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the binder includes a water degradable polymer.

26. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the water degradable polymer is selected from the group consisting of polylactic acid, polylactic – polyglycolic acid copolymers, polycaprolactam and polyanhydrides.
27. (Original) The method of Claim 25, wherein the water degradable polymer is selected from a group consisting of polymers having microbes embedded therein that multiply in the presence of water which acts as a nutrient for the microbes, thus to cause degradation of the water-degradable polymer.
28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 27, wherein the group consisting of polymers having microbes embedded therein includes polysaccharides, polypeptides, polyvinylalcohols, polyacrylic acids, and polyesters.
29. (Original) The method of Claim 14, wherein the binder is water swellable.
30. (Original) The method of Claim 29, wherein the water swellable binder is selected from a group of polymers consisting of polyvinyl alcohol, polyacrylic acid and polyethelenimine.

31. (New) A method for providing a golf ball with a visual indication that a property has been altered due to the presence of water in the golf ball, comprising:
- applying a water-activated mask that is altered to permit viewing of a covered
- indicator upon being subjected to water,
- wherein said mask functions, prior to water activation, as an opacification mask in
- which the mask has a structure which makes the mask opaque.